

WINSTONCOUNTY

Honorable Samuel L. Masdon

Winston County Courthouse
P.O. Box 613
Haleyville, AL 35565
(205) 486-9554



Randy Brimer
Beth Romo
Mike Millican
Jerry Mobley
Chris Proctor
Aaron Brown
Connie Wiginton
Fran Stewart
Kyle Reogas

Clint Baggett
Danny Springer
Sue Reed
Lisa King
James Russell
Dale Hendrix
John Posey
Robert Matthews
Neal Cook

R.C. Tedder
Ed Townsend
Danny Schmidtkofer
Roger Bedford
Joe Duncan
Monica Gardner
Ann Cole
Shane Snoddy
April Knight

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Sustainability for existing programs
2. Substance abuse prevention
3. Teen Pregnancy

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Teen pregnancy

Policy Council Action Steps:

- encourage collaboration among agencies, especially Public Health Department and Department of Human Resource, to reduce teen pregnancies
- advocate more school based programs for professionals in the community to go into schools to teach abstinence, making correct life choices, prevention and consequences
- promote public awareness on the issue of births to unmarried teen mothers, through news media, civic clubs and churches

Winston County children are to live in a safe, stable and emotionally healthy family

Policy Council Action Steps:

- continue providing parenting classes with referrals from schools, court system, mental health and other professionals
- school social worker for each campus
- providing more information to the community by media, Health Fair and Resource directory

Establish an effective system of substance abuse prevention and intervention in Winston County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- identify all substance abuse prevention and intervention programs in county and encourage collaboration among them
- coordinate with various Law Enforcement agencies to step up enforcement of substance abuse laws
- seek ways to assist with the school systems to enforce policy and rules related to substance abuse by the students

Establish a One-Stop center for information on family issues

Policy Council Action Steps:

- bring together the identified resource partners to establish the Resource Center
- acquire financial support for a Center
- organize and formalize the Center through development of by-laws, goals, advisory committees, and policies of operation

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Develop local treatment programs for drug and alcohol abuse

Policy Council Action Steps:

- seek establishment of a Family Resource Center for support on drug and alcohol problems
- coordinate with mental health about services available and what improvements can be made
- expand transportation services to counseling and treatment

To decrease the number of reported abused or neglected children in the county

Policy Council Action Steps:

- DHR will share appropriate forms to be completed with Principals and counselors at each school as mandated reporters and try to train as to what to "look for"
- DHR will screen all concerns/complaints received from schools to be assessed as preventive assessments
- explore development of Family Resource Center

Increase the number of parenting skills classes offered in Winston County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- work with DHR to assess all the parenting programs in Winston County
- obtain more funding for the Parent Project in Winston County
- start Parent Project, Jr. classes in the county for 6 to 11 year olds.

Shortage of detention bed space for juvenile offenders

Policy Council Action Steps:

- obtain more funding from the state for additional space to house juvenile offenders
- research the possibility of county providing funding for more space at the Detention Center
- research the possibility of obtaining grants for additional funding

Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Increase graduation rate for students in Winston County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- acquire funding for an attendance officer for city schools and continue funding attendance officer for the county schools
- acquire funding for at-risk personnel for each school campus
- acquire funding for after-school and summer tutoring classes

Implement positive behavior management strategies

Policy Council Action Steps:

- acquire funding for an in-school suspension (ISS) facilitator for each campus
- acquire funding for resources to provide for anger management and conflict resolution counseling through ISS
- continue using the PRIDE survey to identify areas of need

Truancy prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:

- familiarize parents and the public regarding the procedures of the early warning truancy prevention program
- educate the parents as to the value of a good education and how important attendance is
- develop a Follow-Up instrument to assess school-based programs addressing absenteeism and promoting attendance

Provide a quality education that incorporates academic and cultural knowledge with awareness of career opportunities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- provide career awareness education and goal setting activities to promote values and attitudes regarding future education & vocation
- establish an After School mentoring and tutoring program that prepares students in academic disciplines required for successful performance on the high school graduation exam and SAT
- provide partnership with different organizations and businesses to allow teen volunteer to acquire job knowledge

Early Care and Education - Children

(0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Winston County children ages 0-5 will have access to more intervention services

Policy Council Action Steps:

- encourage all Winston County Pre-School and Daycares to provide health screenings to students throughout the year
- assist any community or school with health fairs
- increase public awareness in the importance of early childhood assessments and intervention

All children in Winston County will be prepared to succeed in School

Policy Council Action Steps:

- advocate increased funding for affordable, quality childcare subsidy programs and Head Start
- recruit volunteers to assist the teaching and have more one on one remedial work
- raise awareness among day care providers and the parents of young children about the need of early education

Offer quality programs for Pre-School and those who need child care

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop criteria for “quality Early Care”
- distribute information on what constitutes a good Childcare facility to parents and schools
- offer training and professional development to child care providers and their staff members

Create a fully functioning early care and education network among all agencies that have services

Policy Council Action Steps:

- survey current members of the Children's Policy Council and identify all services available to children 0 to 5 years
- identify gaps in service for children 0 to 5 years
- encourage collaboration among agencies

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

To provide affordable County-Wide transportation to meet the needs of families

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure funding for public transportation
- coordinate and Collaborate with existing agencies that offer transportation services
- conduct survey to determine extent of need

To enable Winston County families to better manage their financial resources

Policy Council Action Steps:

- work with local schools and county extension agency to provide public programs on handling finances
- work with local financial institutions to establish incentive programs to provide financial security
- to educate families about Pre-existing financial aids and opportunities

To reduce the poverty level of Winston County families

Policy Council Action Steps:

- establish a resource directory that will inform parents and children of programs and resources that are available to meet their individual needs
- encourage the development of a Family Resource Center
- encourage industrial recruitment in rural area

Encourage more job training, job programs, and job placement for youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- contact County Commissioners, City Council Members, and Industrial Leaders regarding summer youth work programs
- identify providers for job-readiness training
- become more familiar with workforce Initiative programs and promote these programs to the community

Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Continue providing quality, proven parental training for families in Winston County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- keep identifying families in Winston County that lack solid parenting skills, through the assistance of the Juvenile Court, Schools, and the Department of Human Resources
- relate information through media and using both printed and broadcast media to obtain more self referrals for the Parent Project
- seek more funding to broaden the scope of the Parent Project

Improve parental involvement in their children's education

Policy Council Action Steps:

- encourage parental attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences, by offering Extra credit and recognition to Children/Parents that faithfully attend
- offer remedial courses for parents to better enable them to assist their child's after school work
- use all available sources including the media to educate the parents concerning the values of education and the consequences of truancy

Every parent in the county will be knowledgeable of the developmental and social issues their children face

Policy Council Action Steps:

- develop informational brochures addressing key issues of children and teens and distribute through health fairs and sporting events
- create a media campaign to emphasize greater parental involvement in their children's lives
- establish a referral system to ensure families/parents are aware of resources that are available

To provide structured and supervised programs and activities for children to include after school, weekends, summer, and school holidays and intercessions

Policy Council Action Steps:

- identify existing programs that are currently available to the youth that would be supervised and have meaningful enrichment programs
- start a mentoring program in the communities
- advocate for permanent, adequate funding for programs that would promote healthy family relationships

Policy Recommendation

1. Continue to support, expand and allocate funding for scientifically proven programs such as Parent Project, to enable parents and children to develop the skills on to enrich their lives together.
2. Help prevent drug, tobacco and alcohol abuse in our county by developing a prevention/intervention program.
3. Develop a resource directory for the county.
4. Encourage partnership among agencies providing services and identify gap areas.
5. Work with agencies and schools to develop and fund programs for youth career planning, development, training and employment.
6. Promote legislative concern regarding rural economic development.
7. Create a Family Resource Center which would cater to the total needs of the Family Unit.
8. Advocate for social workers in all schools to evaluate and make referrals to assist children and families in need.
9. Funding should be allocated for forensics narcotics evaluation to expedite trials of those charged with drug and alcohol violations.

Accomplishments

1. Received Unified Prevention System Capacity Building Grant to develop a comprehensive substance abuse system in Winston County. The grant will bring \$600,000 into Winston County over the next three years. Winston County Children's Policy Council is very excited to be one of six recipients of the Alabama Unified Prevention System Grant for the development of a youth substance abuse prevention program